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Torture and rape are part of the daily lives of Israel's defenders.

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by Philip Giraldi

Let's try to get the United States to stop supporting this carnage.

Two recent accounts detailing the inhumane brutality with which Israel treats Palestinians have highlighted the criminality of successive US governments that support the Jewish state no matter what it does. Observers of this unbalanced relationship understand all too clearly that the Israeli lobby in the United States, backed by Jewish billionaires willing to spend lavishly to corrupt the political system and buy the media, has succeeded in turning Washington into a client state entirely controlled and manipulated by extreme war criminals like Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is rewarded with the near-total loyalty of Congress and the White House. This one-sided relationship dominates both Republicans and Democrats and was particularly evident under the presidencies of Joe

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Biden and Donald Trump, who chose to ignore the reality of Israel's massacre of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians using US weapons and Washington's political protection in international forums. For what it's worth, neither Joe Biden nor Donald Trump have spoken out effectively on the killings and torture inflicted on Palestinians by Israel.

The irony of it all is that Washington's subservience to Israel, far from being politically neutral, is causing terrible harm to the United States, both in terms of real costs and the fact that the US is now vilified by much of the world as it continues to protect and support Israel in its agenda to transform the Middle East into a region it dominates by perpetually massacring its native inhabitants. Beyond that, one of the costs of this excessive love for Israel is the lack of accountability when it comes to protecting American citizens who find themselves on the wrong side of the Israeli police state. Citizens like the Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh were killed by an Israeli army sniper in May 2022, but the US embassy did nothing to establish responsibility for the killing, leaving that task to the Israeli justice system, which did nothing and may even have rewarded the soldier. Abu Akleh was one of 276 journalists deliberately targeted and murdered by Israeli forces over the past two years.

Going back further in time, the most blatant instance of the United States abandoning its own to Israeli complicity is the attack on the intelligence ship USS Liberty in international waters in June 1967. Thirty-four crew members were killed and 174 others wounded. The clear intention was to sink the ship using aircraft and torpedo boats whose identification had been concealed in order to blame the incident on the Egyptians. A cover-up orchestrated by President Lyndon B. Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ensued, and repeated attempts by the surviving crew members to open an investigation were blocked in Congress, notably by Senator John McCain, whose father was the admiral who presided over the investigation in Malta and concluded it was a case of mistaken identity—a lie. LBJ recalled the planes that had been sent to assist the distressed Liberty and reportedly stated that he would be satisfied if all these "sailors went to the bottom of the sea"rather than offend"our good friend» Israel.

Inevitably, accounts of Israeli inhumanity are either completely suppressed or heavily altered to portray the Jews involved as victims of everything that is happening—what might be called the “Holocaust syndrome”—but sometimes the reality is so horrific, including systematic torture and even organ harvesting from prisoners, that it manages to filter through despite damage control and censorship.

Last week, a bizarre story surfaced involving the Israeli army's chief legal officer, Major General Yifat Tomer-Yeralshami. Yeralshami is highly respected by her peers, though it's reasonable to assume she was acting under pressure from policies dictated to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) by the Netanyahu regime and its far-right national security chief, Itamar Ben-Gvir. Tomer-Yeralshami had been implicated in the case of a Palestinian prisoner who was repeatedly raped in the notorious Sde Terman prison.

Terman was the Israeli army's most notorious torture center. In October 2024, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel published a report examining the treatment of thousands of Palestinian detainees after October 7, 2023. In this report, the commission determined that Gaza detainees incarcerated in Israeli military prisons, including children, had beensubjected to widespread and systematic abuse, physical and psychological violence, as well as sexual and gender-based violence constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity, namely acts of torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence».

Israeli soldiers reportedly displayed creativity in their rape techniques. Dr. Mark Perlmutter, a Jewish American orthopedic surgeon who volunteered as a doctor in Gaza last year, reported how a Palestinian prisoner was treated.He was raped by female soldiers of the Israeli army with a zucchini placed in his rectum, which had been soaked in pig's

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blood.", pork being used specifically because it is forbidden to Muslims, just as it is to Jews.

The rape in question, which Tomer-Yeralshami is investigating, was committed by five Israeli soldiers. The incident occurred in July 2024, and the soldiers were arrested after the Palestinian man was found to be so severely injured that he required hospitalization. The Israeli soldiers raped the man with such violence, including using a knife in his rectum, that his intestines ruptured and his rectum tore. He has undergone 20 surgeries since the incident. The detention center where the soldiers were being held was subsequently stormed by a group composed mainly of armed Israeli settlers led by Ben-Gvir. The men were later released and are reportedly awaiting a military hearing to determine their possible guilt. Not only do they proclaim their innocence, but they believe they should be rewarded and have even appeared before the press dressed in black uniforms and head coverings to make their point, namely that soldiers should not be held responsible if they torture or kill Palestinian prisoners.

In this case, the story of the brutal rape committed in the prison would have been suppressed by an Israeli court if the rape had not been filmed and leaked to the Israeli news channel. Channel 12apparently by the general and possibly other members of her office. The story then took another turn when she resigned from her position and disappeared. In her resignation letter, she reportedly admitted to approving the release of a video revealing institutionalized torture committed by the Israeli army against Palestinian prisoners of war at the Sde Teiman detention camp in July 2024.

Shortly after the images were released, Tomer-Yerushalmi was placed on administrative leave by the Israeli Ministry of Defense following the launch of a criminal investigation to determine the source of the leak. In the months following her leave, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz announced that Tomer-Yerushalmi would not be allowed to return to her post, thus forcing her to resign. In her resignation letter, Tomer-Yerushalmi stated:To my great regret, this fundamental idea that even the most despicable prisoners should not be subjected to certain acts is no longer convincing to everyone.", tacitly admitting the institutionalized abuses sanctioned by Israeli officials within the Israeli army and the Netanyahu government.

Tomer-Yerushalmi disappeared from public view, and rumors later circulated that she had committed suicide, but she was found and arrested. The Netanyahu government and its right-wing supporters attempted to capitalize on the case, claiming that the general's arrest confirmed that the soldiers were "innocentand that the leaked videos werefalseHowever, the soldiers' trial continues, and the authenticity of the videos has been confirmed. General Tomer-Yerushalmi is now accused of "treason" for her role in the leak.

This affair could have been a classic case of silencing a messenger of bad news, but it is now clear that the general was not acting alone. Israeli police claim to be in possession of WhatsApp communications implicating other senior officers connected to the leaked information. The Israeli press has cited eight senior officers within the Israeli military prosecutor's command, headed by Tomer-Yerushalmi. The video and related documents were allegedly leaked in person by a junior officer within the military prosecutor's command, who also confessed to his actions before the Israel Security Agency (Shabak). Some believe it is inconceivable that General Tomer-Yerushalmi would have made the decision to reveal the Israeli army's activities without receiving the green light from her superiors. Who could have given that green light? Her direct commander, the Israeli Chief of Staff (Herzi Halevi), or even the Defense Minister (Yoav Gallant), which would put them at odds with Netanyahu.

Some suspect that the army high command's true objective may have been to prove that Israel "has the legal means to prosecute its war criminals," a message to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague to stay out of the case. If this theory is correct, General Tomer-Yerushalmi and those who authorized it were motivated by "patriotic sentiments" to protect the behavior of army soldiers. It may have been an attempt to defuse potential legal proceedings by

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presenting a false image of ethical accountability. In short, the image of "ethical behavior" replaces any real concern for ethical conduct, which is absent in this nation that calls itself a Jewish state and whose army presents itself as the "most moral" in the world.

As expected, in response to Tomer-Yerushalmi's admission that she was behind the release of the Sde Teiman video, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to shift the blame onto someone else. He called the leak the worst public relations disaster Israel had ever experienced, stating:This is perhaps the most serious public relations attack Israel has experienced since its founding—I cannot recall an attack so focused and intense. It requires an independent and impartial investigation, and I fully expect such an investigation to take place.What Netanyahu was actually demanding was to cover up the crimes that have become systematic in the torture and murder of Palestinian prisoners by Israel.

Another equally horrific story concerns the activities of Israeli settlers, armed by the Israeli government, who systematically attack Palestinians remaining in the West Bank, beating and even killing Arabs and destroying their livelihoods. Once again, video footage has surfaced showing a raid on a Palestinian farm and revealing how settlers attacked a barn containing the farmer's sheep and lambs. Australian journalist Caitlin Johnstone described the scene and what it means:

«Israeli settlers were filmed torturing lambs belonging to Palestinians from the West Bank. They gouged out their eyes. They crushed them With cinder blocks. They beat them to death in front of their mothers. Lambs. This isn't the most diabolical thing the Israelis have ever done. Far from it. Hell, all of human civilization subjects animals to cruel abuse every minute of every day through the horrors of factory farming. But this particular incident sheds a special light on exactly what goes on behind the eyes of Israelis in this sadistic society. Think of the hatred and savagery it would take to gouge out the eyes of a live lamb. Think of the kind of person you would have to become to do such a thing to an innocent creature. These lambs didn't know they were Palestinian. They knew nothing of Hamas, of October 7th, of the Nazi Holocaust, or of any of the other reasons Israelis usually give to justify their abuse of human beings. They were simply sitting there, doing nothing that could be interpreted as harmful, even by the most skilled hasbarist. And these settlers came and inflicted completely gratuitous suffering upon them. To me, this speaks volumes about the level of virulent hatred that pervades the State of Israel. It's ingrained in the way the entire state operates.».

I have nothing further to add about what's wrong with Israel, including its criminal relationship with the United States. So, Trump, I already know you hate animals just as you hate and seek revenge on anyone who disagrees with you, but what is your response to the murders of children and the rapes of prisoners, as well as the torture of small animals that have done nothing wrong? What is your justification for making the United States a partner and even a facilitator of these crimes?

source: The Unz Review

(https://en.reseauinternational.net/mentions-legales/)